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BOARD MEMBERS

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Professional Member

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Vice President
Professional Member

Kimberly McKenna
Secretary, Professional
Member

Scott Blaier
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Division Support

Debbie Heinsch
Administrative Specialist
for the Delaware Board



Message from the Board

We are pleased to present the first in what we hope will be a continuing series of annual newsletters from the Delaware Board of Geologists. The goal of this newsletter is to provide a regular means of communication to Delaware's Professional Geologist community beyond the routine administrative correspondence that has to date been the only interaction most of you have ever had with the Board. While detailed information about the Board, Licensing, Laws, Rules and Regulations is available at www.dpr.delaware.gov, here is a little background information:

- The Board is comprised of 4 professional and 3 public members
- The Board meets 10 times a year (the first Friday of each month except January and July)

As stated in 24 *Del. C.* §3601, the primary objective of the Board of Geologists is to protect the general public, specifically persons who are the

direct recipients of services regulated by the chapter from unsafe practices and from occupational practices which tend to reduce competition or fix the price of services rendered.

The secondary objectives of the board are to maintain minimum standards of practitioner competency and certain standards in the delivery of services to the public. In meeting its objectives, the Board shall

- develop standards to assure professional competence
- monitor complaints brought against practitioners regulated by the Board
- adjudicate at formal hearings
- promulgate rules and regulations, and
- impose sanctions against licensed practitioners where necessary.

In addition to the code-specified objectives, the Board believes that we have an obligation to

provide guidance and support to Delaware's geologists relating to licensure, continuing education, and professional conduct. To this end, much of the Board's efforts the past few years were to

- simplify and standardize the licensure/application process
- make continuing education requirements easier to understand and their review more objective
- ensure that Delaware is adequately represented at the national level through active participation in the Association of State Boards of Geology
- better communicate with the licensed community via our website and, now, this newsletter.

We hope that you will find this newsletter informational and useful. We welcome any comments or suggestions for future versions. You may email suggestions to customerservice.dpr@state.de.us



ASBOG News Headlines

2008 ASBOG Annual Meeting

I am pleased to relate the current activities of the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG). This update is from the October, 2007 Annual Meeting.

This year's annual meeting was concerned with the creation of an ASBOG Foundation. Since no new member states are joining ASBOG, there are concerns that funding will not be sufficient into the future to secure and maintain security and growth for the ASBOG Exams. This foundation will be able to accept monetary donations. The foundation will stand alone and be responsible unto itself. However, ASBOG will be able to access the funds for use in the continued maintenance of the ASBOG Exams. The member states' voting delegates (including DE) voted in favor of the creation of the ASBOG Foundation.

Bylaw changes were called for in the area of nominations dealing with the Secretary and Treasurer of ASBOG. The Bylaws Committee will work on this task for approval and voting at the 2008 Annual Meeting in October.

New additions are expected to become available on the ASBOG website in a *Members Only* section to aid

communication between member board states. For those interested in finding out more about ASBOG and current activities, please visit the ASBOG website at www.asbog.org. Also, feel free to contact the Board Office at customerservice.dpr@state.de.us for details of the conference as they become available.

2009 ASBOG Examination

The next scheduled ASBOG Examination is March 6, 2009. To be on the agenda for approval at the Board meeting on December 5, 2008, your application must be completed and all required documentation submitted *prior to November 20, 2008*. For more information, visit:

www.dpr.delaware.gov/boards/geology/asbog_exam.shtml

2009 ASBOG Examination Study Guides

Study Guides for the ASBOG Examination may be found on www.asbog.org under *Examination*.

If you have any questions concerning the examination, please contact the Board office at (302) 744-4500.

Governance of the ASBOG Exam

I represent Delaware in the governance of the ASBOG Exam through the Council of Examiners (COE). The COE meets twice a year after each exam is administered by all participating states. The council reviews the exam questions and, assisted by the ASBOG psychometrician, determines the final scoring and validity of the FG and PG exam questions. I participated in the FG exam portion of this activity. In another capacity, I serve as the DE Board's voting delegate to ASBOG, which allows Delaware's participation in the business portion of the meeting. The Delaware Board pays dues to the ASBOG Organization to have access to the exams and feels strongly about participating in ASBOG activities.

Sincerely

Sandy Schenck
Vice President

Continuing Education

Delaware law requires registered geologists to complete 24 units of continuing education credits as a condition of license renewal. The continuing education period runs from August 1 to July 31 of each two-year licensing period. The current two-year period is from August 1, 2008 to July 31, 2010. To fulfill your credit requirement, you must complete your courses, presentations, and other approved activities by the July 31 deadline. One Continuing Education Unit equals one contact hour (60 minutes). Continuing education is subject to Board review. On your license renewal application, you must attest that you have completed all required continuing education credits.

A list of Board-approved continuing education courses, categories and credits allowed is available at www.dpr.delaware.gov/boards/geology/index.shtml. For the rules that govern the Board, see Section 6.0 of the Board's Rules and Regulations, also available on the website.

Geologist Seal

The purpose of the geologist seal is to seal reports, drawings maps, or similar technical submissions involving the practice of geology that have been prepared, or reviewed and approved, by a licensed geologist and that will become a matter of public record, or relied upon by any person, within this state for geological purposes. The stamp or seal indicates that the licensee has accepted responsibility for the work. It must be of the design shown here and not less than 1 ½ inches in diameter. Licenses may purchase their seals from any convenient source.

A Professional Geologist who signs and seals documents with his/her seal is responsible for all work contained therein regardless of whether such work has been performed by the geologist or subordinate.

For further guidelines for using your Geology Seal, please visit our website at <http://regulations.delaware.gov/AdminCode/title24/3600.shtml>. The guidelines are in Section 3.0.

Unlicensed Practice

It is unlawful to practice geology in Delaware without a Delaware license. However, qualified unlicensed persons are permitted to actively participate in the practice provided they work under the direct supervision of a licensed Delaware Geologist. According to 24 *Del. C.* § 3617, supervising Delaware licensed geologists are required to inform the Board of the unlicensed practitioners under their charge. The licensed geologist is responsible for the activities of unlicensed persons practicing geology under his/her license. Simple written notification, sent to the Board, is all that is required. However, efforts should also be taken to routinely update this information as personnel changes warrant.

We are mandated to protect the persons who are the recipients of our services, and to maintain standards of practitioner's competency while providing the opportunity for "on the job" experience for those new to the field. Additionally, by notifying the Board, we are able to better confirm the required experience for these geologists in training when they are ready to apply for licensure.

Continuing Education requirements are used to improve, refresh and expand the skills of our licensees





Online Services

License Renewal

The Division of Professional Regulation and the Board are happy to report that online renewal is now available to all geologists 24/7. To file your renewal application online, all you need is your registration code (which the Division will send on the renewal notice) and a credit card. Visit www.dpr.delaware.gov and click on *Renew Your License*. When you have registered, you may log in, update your contact information, answer the renewal questions, and pay your renewal within a few minutes.

Contact Information

The Division offers the ability to update your contact information online. It is important to keep your mailing address, email and other contact info up-to-date so that renewal notices and other correspondence will reach you. Simply visit: www.dpr.delaware.gov and click on *Change Contact Information*. The first time you use online services, you must register using your registration code. (If you do not have your code, you can request it using an online request form.)

When you register, you create your own User ID and password to use with all online services. You may then log in and update your personal information at any time.

Online Calendar

For current information on your Board's activities, meeting agendas and minutes are now available online. On the Board's website, click on [Minutes and Agendas](#) to view past and future meeting dates, agendas and approved minutes.

Welcome New Licensees

The Delaware Board of Geologists licensed 23 geologists from July 1, 2007 through September 2008. Delaware now has a total of 333 Geologists in active status. In the 2008 renewal, 42 licenses expired, all but four of which were outside Delaware.

47 Geologists reside in Delaware, and 286 reside elsewhere.

The board would like to welcome the new licensees:

Nelson Brooks
Susan E. Cameron
Timothy Eugene Crump
Reginald Dawkins Jr.
Daniel Steel Fisher
Michael Hertz
James G. Hill
Michael S. Iwashchenko
Robert Eric Johnson
Joshua W. Kasper
Jeffrey D. McClure
Wilson
Matthew R. Mitchell

Scott R. Mundell
Andrew C. Owens
Johathan Rihs
Paul Rydel
T. Jeff Shanks
Darren T. Shelhamer
Scott Strohmeier
Steven J. Treschow
Ethan Weikel
Ronald Wesley
Bartholomew D.